**STRATHALLAN TAKE TOP SPOT**

The Fun-88 sponsored IOM Table Tennis League got off to an exciting start last week, with all 4 divisions in action.

After the first round of matches Strathallan occupy top spot in Division 1 after an emphatic win over Tower A. They are followed by Copy Shop A and Surestrike Ramsey A who both also won to take second and third respectively.

Travellers C pinch top spot in division two with an almost perfect performance; they are closely followed by their B team.

Surestrike Ramsey D are the early leaders in division three with Copy Shop E hot on their heels, whilst Surestrike Ramsey G are setting the pace in Division 4.

**Division One**

**Strathallan (8) Tower A (0)**

Strathallan were gifted three points due to Tower only fielding two players. They capitalised on this start with a further two points each from debutant Wayne Taylor and captain Julian Briercliffe. Andy Patterson was on his way to doing the same with one win under his belt, however a shortage of time led to his match against Graham McFarlane being abandoned. As a result, Strathallan took all the 8 points that were awarded, but will hope that the 1 void point does not prove crucial in the final reckoning.

**Copy Shop A (7) Arbory (2)**

This match featured 3 of the 5 players who represented the Island in Gotland in June and it was Ronan McDonnell’s side who came out on top. McDonnell and Sean Drewry both earned hat-tricks for Copy Shop, whilst Paul Corran added a point to their collection by beating Mike Tamarov of Arbory. Tamarov’s teammates, Jason Quirk and Khayee Vinas, both collected a point by defeating Corran.

**Surestrike Ramsey A (6) Surestrike Ramsey B (3)**

The Ramsey teams started off their campaigns with a derby, in which the A team prevailed thanks to hat-tricks from Adam Teare and Juan Moore. Despite a couple of close matches, Rhys Yardley was unable to increase their tally, losing to Tim Baker, Chris Holmes and Wael Kassim as the newly-promoted B team took their first ever points in the top flight.

**Division Two**

**Travellers C (9) Surestrike Ramsey C (1)**

An excellent performance from Travellers in which Mike Dunning secured three points. This was matched by new team member Nathan Evans, whilst Harry Walters added a further two to the tally. Dunning and Walters combined to take the win in the doubles. Wendy Hogan obtained the consolation point for Ramsey in their first match after taking the Division 3 championship last term.

**Travellers B (8) Copy Shop B (2)**

Stu Douglas and Colin Brown got Travellers season off to winning ways with hat-tricks, then combined to bag a win in the doubles. Tommy Cowin gained another point for Travellers but could not overcome Rob Sim and Adam Davies who notched up a point each for Copy Shop.

**Tower B (4) Copy Shop C (6)**

A no-show from Tower saw Copy Shop take an automatic 3-0 head-start which they doubled with a win each from Kevin Drewry, Freya Melvin and newcomer Bruno Gomez. Dave Parsons pulled three points back for Tower followed by a win in the doubles assisted by Kitty Thomas, however Copy Shop walked away with the win.

**Peel B (5) Peel A (5)**

Peel A and B started off their season in a derby match which couldn’t be split. Mattie Evans got the B team started with a brace before Stu Mason went one further with a hat-trick. Malc Lewis led the comeback with two wins, followed by one each from Tiernan Garvey and Callan Reed, then in the crucial doubles Lewis and Garvey claimed a win to tie the match.

**Division Three**

**Surestrike Ramsey D (8) Desmonds Douglas (2)**

Fraser Dametto led the way with a treble for Surestrike, Frank Feeney and Dave Bufton added two each to the collection. Dametto and Bufton increased the Northerners lead by winning the doubles. Jim Travers bagged a brace for new team Desmonds Douglas who put in an encouraging performance in their first league fixture.

**Peel C (3) Copy Shop E (7)**

Callan Reed obtained two wins for the Westerners, along with a point from Louis Faragher for Peel C. Cameron Dudley led the way for CopyShop with three wins, whilst Libby Quaggin contributed two and one came from Leo Doyle. Dudley and Doyle then combined to finish off the fixture with a win in the doubles and seal an emphatic win over last season’s Division 4 champions.

**Tower C (6) Surestrike Ramsey F (4)**

Margaret Forsyth, Heather Kennett and newcomer Jonathon Kelly all collected two points for Tower with wins over William Dalugdugan and Lily Byrne of Surestrike Ramsey F. Sally Green reduced the deficit with an excellent hat-trick, then Dalugdugan and Byrne took the doubles.

**St Ninians A (6) Surestrike Ramsey E (4)**

Jack Yardley picked up two points for Surestrike followed by one each from Dylan Yardley and Leo Tomlinson. Ken Hegarty led St Ninians’ comeback by earning three, whilst Archie Walter bagged a brace to give St Ninians the lead. Hegarty and Walter then combined to take the deciding doubles to secure Saints victory.

**Division Four**

**Copy Shop F (3) Surestrike Ramsey G (7)**

Brothers Glenn and Charlie Callow both produced individuak hat-tricks before combining to finish off with a win in the doubles. Sonja Shaw and Darren Shaw both opened their accounts in their first league matches, whilst the evergreen Pat Halliwell also collected a consolation point for Copy Shop.

JUAN MOORE 18/9/17